THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: (a) No, Sir.

(b) & (c) Does not arise.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Government have this matter examined as this bridge is on an inter-district road connecting Chingleput and North Arcot districts? For want of this bridge, great inconvenience is caused to the public.

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: Once in five or six years high floods occur. At present there is no programme with the Government to have any bridge there. Though it is an inter-district road connecting the North Arcot district with Chingleput, it is really maintained by the North Arcot District Board and we hope that they will maintain that road in proper condition.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: As there is a provision of Rs. 17 lakhs in the Budget this year for upgrading such roads by taking them over from the District Boards, will the Government have this matter examined further?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON: This road is not taken into consideration at present and it is not included in the Budget for the coming year. It will be considered if it is necessary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Questions are over.

[*Note.*—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. CHAIRMAN *RE* MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to announce to the House that I have received the following message, dated 12th February 1958, from the Governor of Madras:—

"In pursuance of Article 207, clause (3), of the Constitution of India, I, Bishnuram Medhi, Governor of Madras, hereby recommend to the Madras Legislative Council, the consideration of the Madras Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 1958".

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTION.

MOTION UNDER RULE 23 (1) OF THE MADRAS COUNCIL RULES *re* TRANSACTION OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ON A NON-OFFICIAL DAY.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move— 3-40 p.m.

"That rule 23 (1) of the Madras Council Rules be suspended and this House do resolve to transact Government Business on Saturday, the 8th March 1958".

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

"That rule 23 (1) of the Madras Council Rules be suspended and this House do resolve to transact Government Business on Saturday, the 8th March 1958."

The motion was put and carried.

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS ANIMAL PRESERVATION BILL, 1958.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Animal Preservation Bill, 1958.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

"That leave be granted for the introduction of the Madras Animal Preservation Bill, 1958."

The motion was put and carried and leave was granted.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

(2) THE MADRAS BHOODAN YAGNA BILL, 1957 (L.A. BILL NO. 15 OF 1957).

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move—

"That the Madras Bhodan Yagna Bill[a], 1957 (L.A. Bill No. 15 of 1957), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Joint Select Committee, after a careful scrutiny of the various clauses of the Bill, suggested certain changes in the Bill. The Legislative Assembly accepted the changes and in addition, made two changes.

I shall briefly indicate the main changes.

The Preamble has been amplified so as to include the provisions relating to the Gramdan villages and Gramdan lands within the purview of the Bill.

In the definition under clause 2 of the Bill, new definitions for Gramdan lands, Gramdan village and Sarvodaya Panchayat have been added. The definition relating to "landless poor person" has been amplified to be more specific.

In the definition of "Gramdan village" occurring in clause 2 (e) of the Bill, for the words "one or more persons", the words "not less than two-thirds of the number of persons owning lands", and for the words "two-thirds", the words "one-half" were substituted in the Assembly.

[a] Printed as Appendix on pages 383–394 infra.